



FRIENDS OF ENGLISH THEATRE
2019 STRATFORD FESTIVAL TRIP
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Since 2002, FET's annual theatre trips to the Stratford Festival have earned a reputation for quality, superior organization and excellent value. Our theatre trips are unique. Each FET group experience allows you to enjoy each day according to your personal preferences. You choose your shows; you choose where and when to take your meals; and you can also choose where to stay. We offer superior hotel accommodation, but if your preference is a more intimate B&B, you have our blessing! Read on!

WE INVITE YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR SHOWS

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| <p>FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 8:00PM</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR (FESTIVAL THEATRE) by William Shakespeare, directed by Antoni Cimolino OR THE CRUCIBLE (AVON THEATRE) by Arthur Miller directed by Jonathan Goad OR BIRDS OF A KIND (STUDIO THEATRE) by Wajdi Mouawad; English translation by Linda Gaboriau Directed by Antoni Cimolino</p> |
| <p>SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2:00PM</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">FRONT PAGE (FESTIVAL THEATRE) By Ben Hecht and Charles Macarthur, Adapted by Michael Healey Directed by Graham Abbey OR THE NEVERENDING STORY (AVON THEATRE) Based on the novel by Michael Ende; Adapted by David S. Craig, Directed by Jillian Keiley OR BIRDS OF A KIND (STUDIO THEATRE) by Wajdi Mouawad; English translation by Linda Gaboriau Directed by Antoni Cimolino</p> |
| <p>SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 8:00PM</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">BILLY ELLIOT : THE MUSICAL (FESTIVAL THEATRE) Book and Lyrics by Steve Hall; Music by Elton John, Director and Choreographer Donna Feore OR PRIVATE LIVES (AVON THEATRE) By Noel Coward. Directed by Carey Perloff OR NATHAN THE WISE (STUDIO THEATRE) By Gotthold Ephraim Lessing in a version by Edward Kemp. Directed by Birgit Schreyer Duarte</p> |
| <p>SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2:00PM</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">OTHELLO (FESTIVAL THEATRE) by William Shakespeare. Directed by Nigel Shawn Williams OR LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (AVON THEATRE) Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; Music by Alan Menken; Based on the film by Roger Corman Director and Choreographer Donna Feore OR HENRY VIII (STUDIO THEATRE) by William Shakespeare. Directed by Martha Henry</p> |

FET TICKETS

FET prices include all fees and HST. There are no extras. Ticket prices in any official Stratford Festival publicity do not show HST or additional fees until the bottom line.

We invite you to choose one show from each of the four sessions. However, if you feel four shows are too many for you, please discuss this with our trip co-ordinator as some modifications are possible.

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| | THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR | Festival | A seating | \$112 |
| FRIDAY | | | | |
| EVENING | THE CRUCIBLE | Avon | A seating | \$112 |
| 8:00 | | | | |
| | BIRDS OF A KIND | Studio | A seating | \$112 |
| SATURDAY | THE FRONT PAGE | Festival | A seating | \$112 |
| MATINEE | | | | |
| 2:00 | THE NEVERENDING STORY | Avon | A seating | \$112 |
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| | BIRDS OF A KIND | Studio | A seating | \$112 |
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| | BILLY ELLIOT: THE MUSICAL | Festival | A seating | \$142 |
| SATURDAY | | | B seating | \$126 |
| EVENING | | | | |
| 8:00 | PRIVATE LIVES | Avon | A seating | \$112 |
| | NATHAN THE WISE | Studio | A seating | \$112 |
| | | | | |
| | OTHELLO | Festival | A seating | 112 |
| SUNDAY | | | A seating | \$142 |
| MATINEE | LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS | Avon | B seating | \$126 |
| 2:00 | | | | |
| | HENRY VIII | Studio | A seating | \$112 |

FET recognizes where you sit in the theatre really matters. In order to get the best possible seats in our section, the reservation process with the Group Office began early last November. Seats reserved for FET theatres are in the A section, except for the 2 musicals where you are given a choice of either A or B.

Please be aware that the seating in the Studio Theatre is extremely steep. In fact this may prevent some people from choosing a performance in this venue. If you wish to have accessible seating in this theatre it is advisable to make this reservation as early as possible.

To see the seating maps for the three theatres go to pages 28-29 in the Festival Guide or go to the Festival website: <https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/Visit/TheatreAndGuides>

OPTIONAL ADD-ON ACTIVITIES

As in past years the Stratford Festival will provide several enrichment activities for its patrons: Festival Theatre tours, Costume Warehouse tours, Garden tours, Pre- and Post-performance Talks, plus the much appreciated Forum events. At time of going to press the details of these activities were not available. On the other hand, if there is sufficient interest, an event exclusive to FET members will be organized. Information about these enrichment activities will be posted as soon as possible. Note that they always incur additional charges.

ACCOMMODATION

We encourage you to stay at the **ARDEN PARK HOTEL** where FET has reserved a block of rooms. You must contact the hotel directly before August 20 to make a reservation at the hotel. However, you are not under any obligation to stay at the hotel. You are free to contact any one of the B&B's in Stratford. As a guideline, the cost for a room in a B&B in Stratford can vary from \$110 to over \$400 but the average price is comparable to that charged at the hotel. If you opt to stay elsewhere, we strongly suggest you choose a place that allows you to walk to the theatres as any arrangements we make to transfer our members between hotel and theatres by the FET Express will not be available to you.

To book accommodation at the Arden Park Hotel call Guest Services at [1 877-788-8818](tel:18777888818)

It is essential you identify yourself as a member of Friends of English Theatre to make sure one of the rooms reserved for FET is made available to you. If you require specific conditions in your room, this is the time to specify your requirements.

FET's reservation at the Arden Park Hotel is held until August 20. Group rates for double room per night are \$199 - \$209 per night. Regular rates are \$250 - \$280. Breakfast is extra. Prices shown do not include tax.

For general information about the Arden Park Hotel visit www.ardenpark.on.ca

TRANSPORTATION

\$205 per person

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM STRATFORD: Coach Transportation is provided by the 'FET EXPRESS'

The FET Express to Stratford takes about 6½ hours with two stops en route. There is a washroom on board. Seating on the coach is allocated according to the order of registration.

Friday, September 20 'FET Express' will depart Ottawa in the early morning. Details about the meeting point will be posted at a later date.

Sunday, September 22 'FET Express' will depart Stratford after the matinee performances, returning to Ottawa at approximately 11:30pm.

TRANSPORTATION WITHIN STRATFORD: If you are staying at the Arden Park Hotel, the FET Express will frequently, but not always, will be available as a shuttle service to take you to and from the theatres and downtown. A schedule will be posted. At other times, taxis can be easily called and the fares are reasonable.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Payment to FET covers only theatre tickets, transportation and optional activities. Accommodation and meals are not included.

Two cheques are required with your registration:

1. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person. This cheque is due upon registration.
2. A post-dated cheque dated no later than August 20, 2019 covering the balance of transportation and tickets. Please see registration form for details of where to send cheques. Receipt of your registration will be acknowledged. Letters containing final details will be forwarded to you one month prior to departure.

Possible additional charges:

1. A participant who chooses to make the journey to Stratford independently will not have to pay the bus fare. However a surcharge of \$30 will be incurred.
2. Registrations made after August 20, 2019 require a single cheque covering deposit, balance plus the late fee of \$25. The amount is entirely non-refundable.

MEMBERSHIP

This excursion is exclusive to current members of Friends of English Theatre. If you are not a member of FET at the time of your registration (\$10 annual fee), please contact our membership secretary, Manjit Chhura. (Contact details are on page 5)

CANCELLATIONS

What happens if you have to cancel your PERSONAL registration?

- **CANCELLING YOUR THEATRE TICKETS**

If FET is notified prior August 20, only the post-dated cheque will be returned. The deposit is not refundable unless FET cancels the trip for everyone.

- **CANCELLING YOUR ACCOMMODATION**

Cancellation of your accommodation is your responsibility. Remember that it is your credit card that is holding your reservation. If you are booked with Arden Park Hotel, cancellation is without penalty until September 19. After that date, cancellation fee is the full cost of your 2 night stay.

- **WHAT HAPPENS IF FET HAS TO CANCEL THE TRIP.**

In the event that FET does not receive the minimum number of registrations by August 6, the trip will be cancelled and you will be notified by email. Your payments to FET will be refunded in full.

Even if FET cancels the trip you are nevertheless able to keep your reservations your Stratford Festival excursion as long as the following actions are taken.

1. **Immediately notify FET that you wish to keep the show tickets being held for you. FET will make the necessary arrangements with the box office for the tickets to be transferred to your name.**
2. **Contact the hotel(or B&B) to confirm the status of your room reservation.**

Please be aware that it is quite possible the price of your tickets and the price of your accommodation may increase if the group discounts no longer apply.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Wheelchairs can be rented in Stratford. Call 1-800-567-1600 for details. Special seating for wheelchairs in the theatres must be booked in advance. Let us know if this is a requirement.

Assisted hearing devices must be ordered at the same time as the tickets. Please indicate on the registration form if you need this service so it can be ordered under your name in advance. This service is free. A donation is appreciated when you pick up the unit.

WAIVER/TRAVEL INSURANCE

You will be asked to sign a waiver before departure. Travel insurance is your own responsibility. Please note that if you already have travel insurance, we strongly suggest that you check very carefully that your policy covers this particular trip. Some insurance companies do not cover travel within Ontario, nor the cost of theatre tickets.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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| August 6 | Day to determine whether the FET trip has sufficient registrations to proceed. |
| August 6 | Last day for registration with FET. After this date, registration is subject to availability and late fee will apply (\$25). |
| August 20 | Last day for accommodation reservation at Arden Park Hotel to take advantage of the group rate. |
| September 19 | Last day for cancellation of hotel accommodation without penalty. |

CONTACT DETAILS

- To order a Stratford Festival booklet, [1 800-567-1600](tel:18005671600) or www.stratfordfestival.ca
- For information about the season's plays visit www.stratfordfestival.ca
- To book accommodation at the Arden Park Hotel, call the hotel directly. [1 877-788-8818](tel:18777888818). Ask for Guest Services and have your credit card number handy .
Remember to inform the reservation clerk that you are a member of Friends of English Theatre and wish to take advantage of the group rate. FET hotel rooms are held until **August 20** . Group rate for a double room is \$199 - \$209 plus tax. Cancellation of this personal reservation can be made without penalty up to September 19. For general information about the Arden Park Hotel, visit www.ardenpark.on.ca
- To book any other accommodation, try www.bbcanda.com/associations/stratford or through the Stratford Festival [1 800-567-1600](tel:18005671600)
- Questions of a general nature about the weekend arrangements can be addressed to Fran Pearl: [613-726-9330](tel:6137269330) or franny@pearl01.ca
- FET Membership enquires to Manjit Chhura [613-746-3327](tel:6137463327) or s.chhura@sympatico.ca (Membership fees are \$10 per person per year, valid January to December.)
- For general enquiries about Stratford, call Tourism Stratford at [1 800-561-7926](tel:18005617926)
- For special needs, contact the Stratford Festival office [1 800-567-1600](tel:18005671600)

